

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

The application has been amended to reflect the claim for priority.

Submitted herewith for the examiner's consideration and approval are substitute drawings showing proper sectioning for the plastic centering disk.

Claim 1 has been amended in such manner as to distinguish applicant's more clearly over the cited prior art of Koyari et al. In particular, the intermediate coupling member of claim 1 is further recited as comprising a tubular joint having a generally cylindrical housing wall providing radial support to the centering disk and extending to open ends which are no smaller than the region supporting the centering disk. This construction is unlike that of Koyari, rendering claim 1 allowable. Claim 17 has likewise been amended to recite the tubular joint housing feature of the intermediate coupling member, rendering claim 17 patentable.

Newly presented claim 19 recites a cardan joint having features in combination which are neither shown nor suggested by the prior art of record, including Koyari. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 19 is allowable. The remaining claims depend, ultimately, on either claim 1, 17 or 19 and are believed allowable for the same reasons. The dependent claims distinguish over one another in their parent by reciting applicant's invention in greater detail.

It is believed that this application now is in condition for allowance. Further and favorable action is requested.

Appln. No.: 10/649,022
Amdt. dated June 28, 2004
Reply to Office action of March 26, 2004

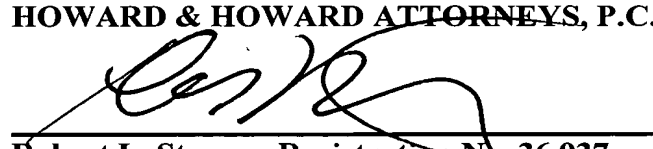
The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to
Deposit Account No. 08-2789.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

June 28, 2004

Date

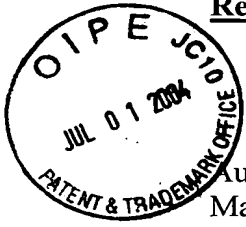


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Amendment** for U.S. Serial No.: 10/649,022 filed August 27, 2003 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on June 28, 2004.

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